



Monthly Progress Report No. 68

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REC'D 3-11-96

F.B.

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RCRA RECORDS CENTER
FACILITY Ciba Geigy Corp
ID. NO. R1D00194323
FILE LCC. 12-9
OTHER _____

Pursuant to: RCRA I-88-1088

Facility Site: Cranston, RI

Period Covered: February 1996 (January 27, 1996 - March 1, 1996) through
fifth Friday of the month.

Date Submitted: March 7, 1996

1.0 SUMMARY

This is the sixty eighth monthly progress report. There were four areas of significant activity this month:

- **On-Site Soil IRM** - This report was completed and submitted to EPA and RIDEM for review at the end of February (March 1, 1996). As noted, it was reformatted into three chapters: 1.0 Introduction Purposes, 2.0 Cranston Production Area, and 3.0 Warwick Area. This facilitates the review of IRM activities in each area independently and supports future "Brownfields" development as "stand alone results". Also, the level of detail for the phases of excavation was significantly increased to provide the reviewer(s) with a step by step description, along with the analytic results.
- **Stabilization IRM** - the groundwater extraction wells and the pretreatment system operated continuously during February with no problems. The Soil Vapor Extraction System (SVE) was not put into operation because the six dual phase extraction wells require additional automation to control the groundwater draw-down in finer increments than several feet. Also, the system needs further programming to provide for automated shutdown. All automation should be completed by March 15 for continuous operation.



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- **Sediment Removal IRM.** A draft report was received from Woodward Clyde late in the month. However, it lacks a sufficient level of detail for a project of this magnitude and must be sufficiently upgraded. We anticipate the report will now be submitted by the end of April.
- **River RFI** this report has been drafted and consists of three volumes: I The Source/Release Characterization and Summary, II The Aquatic Baseline Ecological Risk Assessment and III The Pawtuxet River Sediment Fate and Transport Model. The Eco Risk Report has undergone significant quality review by PTRL, HydroQual and Ciba, lowering the Ecological Toxicity Index (ETI) to credible (10^2) values, by eliminating non-persistent pesticides, questioning the toxic reference values (TRVs) of some organics and establishing background metals and concentrations. The report itself has been clarified by separating the bioassay data from the exposure and risk characterization. All three volumes will be submitted on schedule at the end of March.

2.0 Tasks and Activities Completed

Sampling and other task activities are reported here.

2.1 Sampling Activities Completed

No additional sampling has been conducted since the river sediment excavation results and the extraction wells drawn-down tests submitted with last months report.

During the week of March 4, Ciba will sample the groundwater in the Production Area for volatiles, semi-volatiles and PCBs to collect current data on the contamination. These results should be available in April.

2.2. Other Activities Completed

The On-Site Soil IRM was submitted on March 1 for review.

3.0 Jeopardy Tasks

As noted in the summary, the SVE system could not be placed into continuous service during February because adequate automation was absent to operate the dual phase extraction wells efficiently or control the system itself safely. Previous, short trial runs indicate that the SVE can remove significant quantities of toluene from the soil in the vapor phase if the groundwater draw-down is carefully controlled. The SVE should be operating continuous, and effectively by the end of March.

4.0 Other Tasks Underway (and on schedule)

Tasks that were underway and on schedule as of March 1, 1996, were described in the 1.0. Summary.

5.0 DATA OBTAINED

Ciba received an evaluation of the draw-down tests (see results submitted last month) which indicate that the two extraction Wells #110 and 120 are capturing 80 to 90% of the volatile organics, which previously entered the river, even though the gradient between the wells has not been reversed. However, so much groundwater is being captured, in contrast to mass, that the concentration of volatiles from the two extraction wells, after mixing, is only about 1.5 ppm. Note, that anticipated high groundwater concentrations from the SVE are not included. When the SVE is operating, we project significantly higher influent levels to the pretreatment plant.

The extraction well report, and capture values, will be submitted with the March monthly progress report.

6.0 PROBLEM AREAS

There are no problems, which are not being resolved, in a timely manner.

7.0 SCHEDULE OF TASKS (next two months)

The following tasks will be started or completed in March and April.

- Submit the River RFI (March)
- Determine the Groundwater MPS (April)
- Finish the Sediment Removal IRM Report (April)
- Startup the SVE continuous (March)
- Redefine the Extraction Well System Operation to maximize stabilization and capture (April)
- Start the River CMS Report (April)

8.0 CHANGES IN WORK PLAN

No changes to the Work Plan are proposed at this time; however, we will be requesting that the Toxicity Indicator Evaluations (TIES) indicated in the Phase II River Study be eliminated based upon the results of the Aquatic Baseline Ecological Risk Assessment.

9.0 OTHER COMMENTS

Since the On-Site RFI and CMS were submitted in July and Sept. 1995, respectively, we are anticipating comments from the EPA and RIDEM on these documents.

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